



# The Missouri River Flood Control Prioritization Act

## Bill Highlights

- The bill requires the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to make flood control management the highest priority purpose on the Missouri River system.
- Fish and wildlife will no longer be an authorized purpose and therefore cannot be given priority over levees and other flood control systems that protect landowners and communities along the Missouri River system.
- The Chief of Engineers will revise the Missouri River Master Manual to reflect making flood control the highest priority of any Corps' civil works on the Missouri River system.
- The policy change must be enacted within 90 days of the bill's passage.

## Background

- The flooding in the Midwest this spring will total billions of dollars in damages to farms, homes, businesses, roadways and communities along the rivers.
- In 2004, the USACE began prioritizing wildlife protection and restoration over flood control. Changes included reopening historic chutes, increasing reservoir stage, endangered species releases, returning the river to a natural state to provide additional spawning and breeding areas for species.
- In March 2019, the U.S. Court of Federal claims found that the USACE is responsible for extensive property damage caused as a result of recurring floods along the Missouri River (Ideker Farms, inc. v The United States).